

Applicants have attached a separate, marked-up version of the amended specification and drawings, showing changes relative to the previous version, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

REMARKS

This preliminary amendment corrects typographical errors relating to two drawings that were referenced but not included in the application as filed. Specifically:

- References to original Figures 17 and 18 in the specification are deleted.
- References to original Figures 19 and 20 in the specification are revised to refer to new Figures 17 and 18.
- Figures 19 and 20 in the drawings are renumbered as Figures 17 and 18, respectively.

Applicants will submit new formal drawing pages as soon as these amendments are entered.

Please contact the undersigned attorney with any questions or comments regarding this amendment.

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

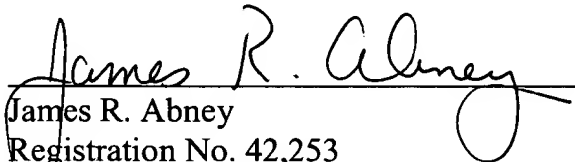
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on January 29, 2002.


Shannon Verboort



Respectfully submitted,

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In the Specification

The specification has been amended as follows (material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, material to be deleted is in ~~[brackets and strikeout]~~):

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 6:

Figure 12 depicts a method for using carriers.

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11:

~~[Figure 17 depicts a top down view of a cylinder carrier having a concentric coding region.]~~

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 13:

~~[Figure 18 depicts a perspective view of a cylinder carrier having a concentric coding region.]~~

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 15:

Figure ~~[19]~~ 17 depicts a coded carrier.

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 16:

Figure [20] 18 depicts a holder array adapted to support one or more self-orienting carriers.

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 22, line 18:

A particularly preferred embodiment provides for end viewable codes within the carrier so that a code may be determined by viewing either the top or bottom surface of, for example, a cylinder shaped carrier. ~~[Figure 17 depicts a top, or bottom view (D) of such cylinder carriers (B) where, in]~~In this particularly preferred embodiment, the code comprises concentric rings co-axially positioned around the central, cylindrical axis of the cylinder carrier~~[- see (D)]. [Figure 18 further depicts a perspective view of the concentric coded carrier.]~~ Figure [19] 17 depicts a perspective view carrier 190 comprised of fused bundle 192 of fibers 194, where at least two of the fibers comprise optical, spatial coding compartments, where each of the fibers are aligned in a parallel fashion, parallel to axis 198 of the cylinder formed by the fused bundle. In the shown embodiment, as disclosed by Chee, is used to retain spherical particles that are encoded as a whole either colorimetrically or chemically, including DNA.

Marked-up version of the paragraph beginning on page 24, line 24:

The present invention further provides for a detection system where in one embodiment, comprises the optical fibers of Chee in optical communication with a detector of the present invention adapted to detect both activity on the surface of a carrier, and detect the code within the carrier. In another embodiment, holder array 2000, as shown in Figure [20] 18, having a plurality of holders 2002 adapted to hold a self-orienting shaped carrier 2004 is detachable from the fiber optics in optical communication with the detector so that the multiple holders may be used with one fiber optic-detector device. In yet another embodiment, carriers 2004 having compounds or materials attached thereto are manufactured and distributed pre-installed in a holder device that may later be combined with the fiber optic-detector described above. In yet another embodiment, the pre-installed carrier holders are pre-characterized with respect to positional relation between compound and position of each carrier within the holder array so that an end user is relieved of having to decode each carrier, and only needs to measure activity associated with each carrier and use a database associated with each holder array, provided by the manufacture, to determine each carrier's code and identity.

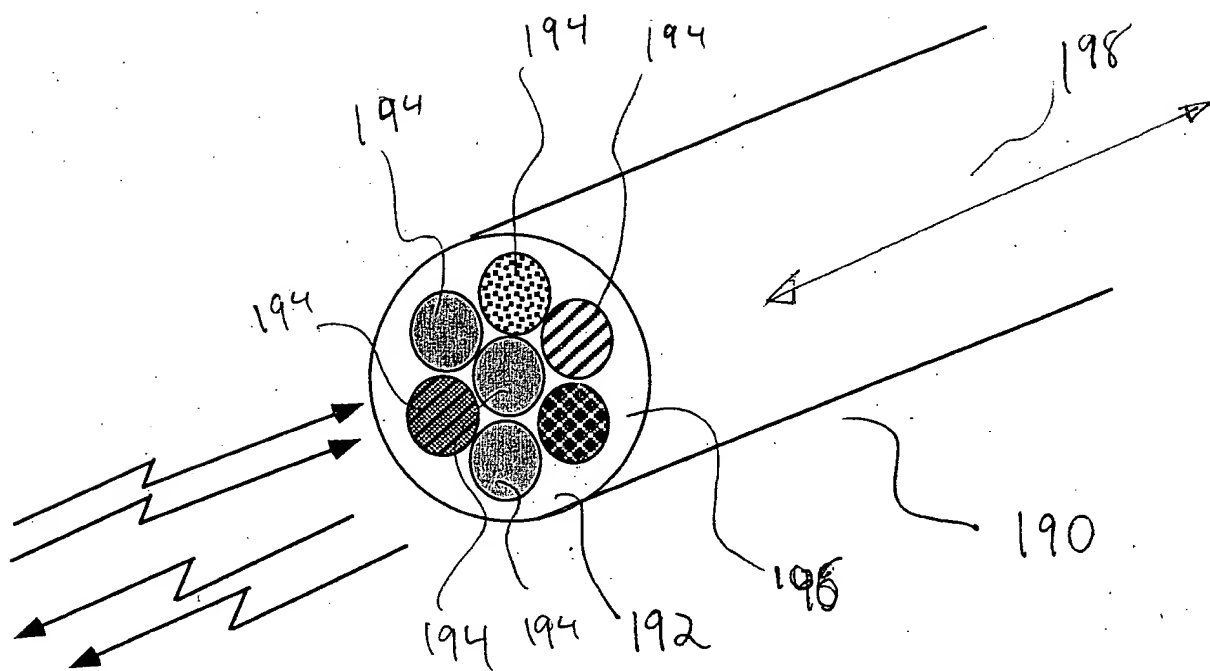


Figure 19

17

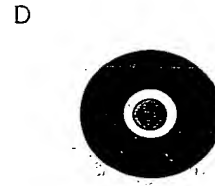
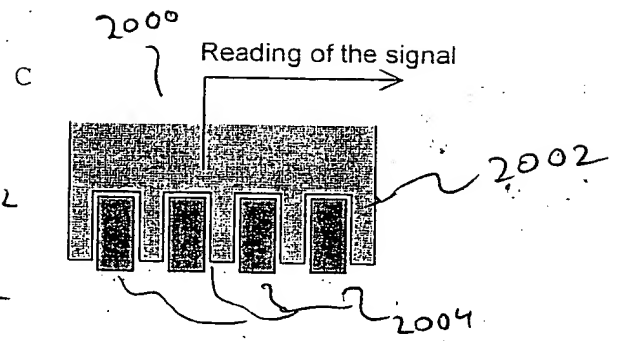
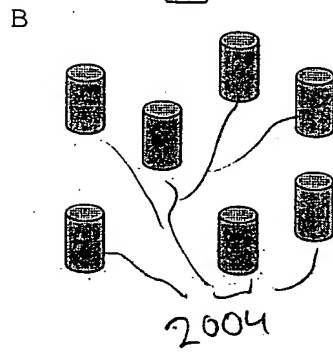
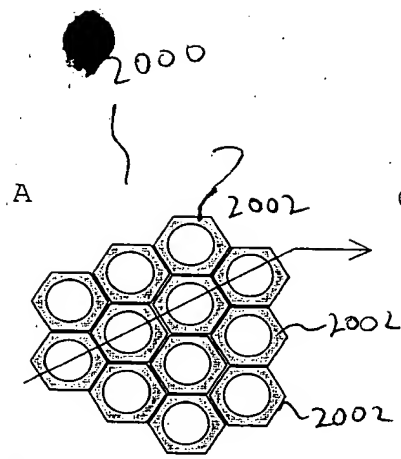


Figure 20

